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Summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 15 November 2000, at 9.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Holkeri ..... (Finland)

Contents

Adoption of the agenda of the fifty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Equatorial Guinea

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The meeting was called to order at 9.30 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda of the fifty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Equatorial Guinea (A/55/237 and Add.1)

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to consider a request submitted by Equatorial Guinea for the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Economic Community of Central African States in the General Assembly" (A/55/237 and Add.1). The representative of Equatorial Guinea had asked to address the Committee on the matter in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Nsobeya Efuman Nchama (Equatorial Guinea) took a place at the Committee table.*

3. **Mr. Nsobeya Efuman Nchama** (Equatorial Guinea), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), said that, three days earlier, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 55/22, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States". Such cooperation was fully justified. Regional integration made a valuable contribution to the realization of the goals set out in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and therefore merited the Organization's support. As an observer in the Assembly, ECCAS would actively support regional integration initiatives and United Nations programmes promoting the creation of structures in Central Africa.

4. In response to the multiplication of conflicts in the region, ECCAS had broadened its mandate to include human integration and peace and security, as well as economic issues. Close cooperation between the United Nations and ECCAS in those areas was essential. The granting of observer status to ECCAS would be consistent with such initiatives as the cooperation agreements concluded by the Organization with the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Community of West African States, and it had received the strong support of the Heads of State and Government of ECCAS at the special Summit held in June 2000 in Libreville and of the elected representatives of the peoples of the region at the Conference of the Presidents of the National Parliaments of Central Africa held in November 2000 in Luanda.

5. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be included in the agenda, and that it should be allocated to the Sixth Committee, bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 54/195 concerning the criteria and procedures for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly.*

The meeting rose at 9.40 a.m.